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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USCR/Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Pipe Line from Austria
to Germany

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. A pipe line between Austria and Germany was built during World War II by the Germans to carry oil from the tank farm at Wifo-Lobau to Aussig on the Elbe near the present German-Czech border. A large refinery was in operation here; also, oil was to be transported from here by barge to other parts of Germany. Because of the German defeat in the East, the pipe line was never used. A large pump station with three pumps was constructed at Wifo-Lobau by the Germans. This pump station has been put in running order by the Russians, who appeared to have plans for the pipe line. The Russians are reported to have gone so far as to pump the line full of water to test for leaks.

2. [redacted] the line is a standard ten-inch pipe. [redacted] to be economical and even to work, the pipe would have to be filled and oil would have to be pumped through continuously, because if the oil is allowed to settle for any length of time, it separates according to viscosity and in winter will become so sluggish that it will hardly move. [redacted] one meter of ten-inch pipe would contain about 45 liters of oil, and therefore the pipe line, which is about 300 kilometers in length, would require approximately 13,500 tons of oil before delivering a drop at Aussig. [redacted]

3. Since the pipe line must operate twenty-four hours a day, [redacted] this ten-inch pipeline, operating under normal conditions, could deliver approximately 5,000 tons of oil per twenty-four hour period, or approximately 150,000 tons per month. This is almost 50 percent more than the total November production for all Austrian fields of about 104,000 tons. [redacted] approximately one third of the entire Austrian crude oil production leaves the country by rail or by barge, leaving approximately 60,000 tons of oil to be refined locally.

4. The Austrian refineries at Moosbierbaum, Korneuburg, Floridsdorf (Shell), Voessendorf, Klodering (Schwechat) have a total capacity of approximately 7,000 tons per twenty-four hour period, and these refineries must operate twenty-four hours a day. But the refineries at the most receive only about

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-2-

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2,000 tons of crude oil per day, and therefore can only operate at one third capacity. For political as well as economic reasons these plants operate twenty-four hours a day, so it is necessary for the management to stretch eight hours of full-time work into twenty-four hours and still keep the workers occupied.

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- [REDACTED]
6. A pipe line linking Wifo-Lobau with Raudnitz/Elbe was constructed by the German government during the war and completed in 1944. The pipe line follows approximately this route: Wifo-Lobau to Bockfliess, crosses the Russbach River, meets the Bundesstrasse just before Gaweinstal, follows the Bundesstrasse as far as Gaweinstal (about 50 m to the side of the road), then to Ladendorf-Laa/Theya - Znaim (Czechoslovakia) - Kolin (Czechoslovakia) - Raudnitz/Elbe.
 7. The pipe line has a diameter of 300 mm and was intended for gasoline. Every 20 kilometers "Schiebeschachte" are located where the line can be shut off in case of damage to the line. An official from the Ministry of Trade inspected the Czech part of the pipe line as far as Kolin in 1948 and reported that the "Schiebeschachte" in Czechoslovakia are painted red and are clearly visible. The line is poorly covered in Czechoslovakia and pipe can be seen above ground from time to time. From a plane the pipe line can be easily followed because vegetation has not been completely restored where the line was built.
 8. In 1948, the Czechoslovak government approached the Austrian authorities with a plan whereby the pipe line could be used to bring coal gas from Czech coal mines to Vienna. Despite the fact that the Czech gas would have been cheaper than the gas produced by the Vienna gas works, the plan was not adopted because the Vienna gas works objected to it. At that time, the Czechoslovak authorities informed the Austrians that the Czech portion of the line had been checked and found leak-proof and suitable for gas.
 9. [REDACTED] the pipe line is definitely not being used by the Soviets now and never was used by them.

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